



**MEDIA RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION
1st JUNE 2008**

PERTH UNIVERSITY STUDENT APPOINTED CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER OF NEW THINK-TANK

Rick Newnham, a 20-year-old undergraduate commerce student at The University of Western Australia, has been appointed as the first Chief Executive Officer of Left Right Think-Tank.

Due for public launch in early 2009, Left Right will be Australia's first independent, non-profit and non-partisan think-tank of young minds dedicated to the advancement of progressive ideas, discussion and policy.

Left Right will allow young people to contribute in a substantive manner to their society through policymaking processes from their genesis in academia to their implementation through local, state and federal governments. Members will conduct policy research and development in a professional, inclusive and supportive environment delivering proposals to the community as they are educated, trained and empowered as the next generation of leaders.

Rick is a proven young leader having served as the National Cadet Under Officer for the Australian Army Cadets in 2007, representing the interests of 16,500 young Australians nationally. During his appointment Rick met many young Australians destined for great things from all corners of Australia. These interactions fostered an interest in the development of Australia's youth and have provided the basis for a sound understanding of young Australians' collective values, goals and desires. Rick is also an advisory board member of the Youth Affairs Council of Western Australia and has recently completed an internship in the corporate division of an international human resource management firm.

"I am looking forward to the exciting and challenging opportunities ahead as Left Right solidifies itself as an influential and innovative think-tank within the Australian marketplace of ideas", Rick said recently.

Reflecting on Rick's appointment the organisation's founder, Thom Woodroffe, said *"Rick is an exceptionally outcome focussed young man whose sound judgement, intellectual rigour and entrepreneurial mindset will be great assets for Left Right into the future"*.

Under Rick's senior leadership, Left Right is currently advertising for three senior staff appointments due to be inducted in early August. Rick says, *"Each of these positions provides an exciting and career-defining opportunity for a young person to be involved in the founding stages of an organisation with extensive development and networking opportunities"*.

Left Right is due for public launch in early 2009 following further staff appointments later this year and the development of a suite of relationships with donors, sponsors and supporters who are passionate about investing in young people and new ideas.